

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1408

By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Kathleen Pennington upon being inducted into the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen Pennington is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pennington recently was inducted into the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher, as it recognizes the positive and enriching influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen Pennington has joined the ranks of educators who previously have been inducted into the circle of honor of the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame, which is sponsored each year by Middle Tennessee State University and overseen by a Board of Governors that represents major educational organizations throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, wholly deserving of this prestigious honor, Ms. Pennington has served the Scott County School System with acumen and alacrity for forty-five years; and

WHEREAS, a 1951 graduate of Norma High School, Kathleen Pennington earned a bachelor's degree from Cumberland College in 1962 and a Master of Education Administration and Supervision degree from Tennessee Tech University in 1974; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pennington commenced her illustrious career as a teacher in 1957, serving Norma High School as a language arts teacher and as a librarian until 1975; at that time, she became the librarian at Fairview Elementary School, a position she admirably filled until her retirement in 1997; and

WHEREAS, approached by the Scott County Director of Schools in 2004 to fill a need for a qualified librarian, Kathleen Pennington returned to Fairview Elementary School, where she served until her much deserved second retirement in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pennington has maintained high standards of classroom conduct, educational achievements, and leadership, and her expertise has been a valuable resource for her colleagues throughout her distinguished career; and

WHEREAS, she is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who has worked assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, deeply committed to the students of Scott County, Kathleen Pennington has served as Director of the school festival and Editor of the school newspaper and yearbook; she also has managed the Accelerated Reader Program and Family Night Reading, and she formed a volunteer program that allows community leaders to assist teachers in the classroom, thereby establishing deeper bonds between the community and its schools; and

WHEREAS, a charismatic philanthropist throughout her tenure in the Scott County Schools, Ms. Pennington has dedicated herself to raising thousands of dollars to help better meet the needs of the students; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen Pennington, a valuable participant in her community's affairs, has rendered sterling service as President of the Norma Alumni Association and the Parent Teacher Organization, as the Chairman of the Tax Equalization Board of Scott County, and as a member of the Scott County Library Board; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pennington is an active and devout member of the Norma Baptist Church, which she has served for a number of years as Deaconess, Director of vacation Bible school, and Bible school teacher; she also played a vital role in the recent development and construction of the church's new fellowship hall; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen Pennington has truly served as an inspiration to the educational community of Tennessee, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pennington epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and her life of service should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Kathleen Pennington, a woman of great inspiration, integrity, leadership, and compassion, upon being inducted into the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame, reflecting fondly upon her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.